workers/
employees has been suibmitted to the Government in the last week of October, 1997. A view of the Government on this proposal is likely to be taken by 31.12.1997. The final approval of the rehabilitation package will, however, depend upon the deliberations before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the prescribed authority under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Impact of Hike in the Prices of Natural Gas on the Fertilizer Sector

339. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact of the recent hike in prices of Natural Gas on the fertilizer sector; and

(b) how Government plans to neutralise the cost of production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) On the basis of the production levels of 1996-97, the likely impact on the subsidy outgo under the Retention Price Scheme of the increase in the price of natural gas with effect from 1.10.97 has provisionally been estimated at Rs. 298 crore per annum. An adhoc increase in the Retention Prices of the gas based urea units w.e.f. 1.10.97 has been notified on 13.11.97.

Proposal for fresh rehabilitation of IDPL

340. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the IDPL management and unions to submit a fresh rehabilitation proposal within certain parameters;

(b) whether the paremeters include extension of purchase preferencu from Government Institutions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have stipulated that IDPL should operate as a joint venture between the management, staff and the workers, if so, the role of the Government in such a venture; and

(d) whether the management and unions have submitted a fresh scheme in response to (a), if so, the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has inoicated that purchase preference with a price preference of 10% over the last purchase price could be extended for 50% of the production of IDPL from the Central Government Ministries/Departments.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government would continue to be the owners of the company.

(d) Yes, Sir. IDPL management has submitted the revised proposal in the last week of October, 1997 which is under consideration of the Government. The final approval of the rehabilitation package will, hoiwever, depend upon the deliberations before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the prescribed authority under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

HFC and FCI referred to BIFR

341. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and Fertilizer Corpora-